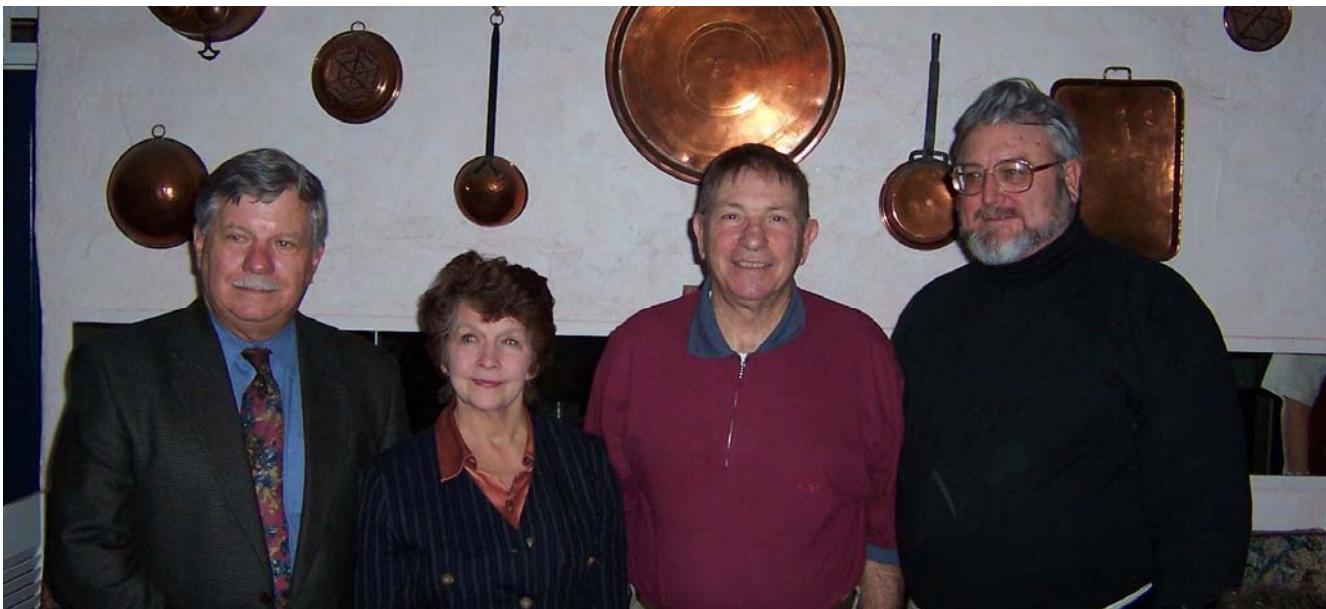


Volume 9, Edition 1

January 2005



2005 VOMARC Officers: (left to right) Ken McTaggart, N6KM, Treasurer, Joan Brady, W6WXU, Secretary, Jim Hill, K6UUW, President, Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN, Vice President

**THE JANUARY VOMARC MEETING WILL BE AT MCDOUGAL HALL, SDC
THIS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, AT 7:30 P.M.**

Mike, WB6TMH, will give a presentation on a new amateur satellite called "Suitsat"

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Happy New Year to all and my wishes for your health and happiness for 2005.

I just ran across a site for those who might want to practice the license tests on the Internet. Try <http://WWW.HAMTESTONLINE.COM/> It reportedly has some great features.

That brings me to the next topic, our ham class. We want to start in Feb. so all instructors need to get out your lessons plans. Let me know if you would be interested in having an upgrade class so that we can get that organized as well. We need help with advertising these classes so please chip in. Lots of enrollment,

means new hams, which could bring us new members.

All VE's, please put Feb. 12 on your calendar as the first VE session of 2005. The remainder of this year's dates are on our website.

Welcome back from vacation in Italy to Ken, N6KM, and Pat, KE6LNN.

I enjoyed celebrating the holidays with all of you at our Christmas dinner. Food was great and the company, better.

The HF band conditions are pretty dismal, but there are bright spots once and awhile. Last week, I worked Charles, S9SS, on Sao Tome and Principe. Signals were not good but I consider any QSO to Africa a stroke of good luck. The low of the current sun spot cycle should occur in a couple of years and then its back up hill to better conditions. Some of us don't have many of these 11 years cycles left.

Take a look at our website and if you see anything that needs fixing, let me or Jan know. For one, all the dates for 2005 need to be updated and that's first priority.

You might have caught the news about the re-build of the Sonoma PD. We have been promised a radio room for the emergency communications. Will be looking forward to moving into our new digs. In the meantime, we are planning on installing the new radios and antennas. See Ken, if you would like to help with that project.

The ACS repeater(146.73mhz) now appears to be interference free and I encourage everyone to get on and use it. This is our primary machine during an emergency, so let's keep it active.

There will be several important items to discuss at this month's meeting at McDougle Hall. We will be setting the club calender for 2005 and getting the ham class planned.

Mike, WB6TMH, will give a presentation on a novel new amateur satellite called

"Suitsat". I think you will enjoy hearing about this.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting. Get on and say "CQ,CQ, CQ" and if you hear a "CQ", answer.

73, Jim

ARES/RACES AID IN CALIFORNIA FLOOD RESPONSE

Flooding and a devastating mudslide in Southern California kept Ventura County ARES/RACES members on the move this week. Among other activities, ARES/RACES has supported communication at shelters housing La Conchita residents displaced by a massive and deadly mudslide January 10 that killed at least 10 people. A town of some 250 inhabitants, La Conchita is approximately 65 miles north of Los Angeles.

"Several communities were cut off from access to the outside world during the flooding, including the Ojai area and the cities of Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru," reports David Gilmore, AA6VH, ARES District Emergency Coordinator and Ventura County RACES Radio Officer. He said five shelters were opened during the course of the flooding, providing refuge to more than 700 evacuees. Gilmore said the hospital in Ojai also experienced flooding, but the community's flood-initiated isolation would have made it extremely difficult to transfer patients to other facilities.

"An ARES/RACES member stood by at the radio communications room at the hospital during this crisis, while the flooding was dealt with," he said.

"Fortunately, the effects of the flooding were able to be contained, and the hospital was able to continue operating."

In the midst of dealing with the La Conchita mudslide and the subsequent rescue/recovery effort, Ventura County also faced a forecast of additional heavy rainfall plus a prediction that the Santa

Felicia dam at Lake Piru might overflow January 11.

"The integrity of the dam itself was never in doubt," Gilmore explained.

"However the amount of water flowing into the reservoir was of sufficient volume that if an overflow occurred, the community of Piru--located at the very eastern part of Ventura County and below the dam--was expected to experience considerable damage."

In light of the threat, authorities ordered residents to evacuate to higher ground, and requested Ventura County ARES/RACES to set up radio communications inside the community. Access to Piru was already difficult, Gilmore explained, and once flooding commenced the town was expected to become completely inaccessible.

"We realized that any personnel who went to Piru could become stranded for several days, along with the Piru residents," he said. Nonetheless, Ventura County ARES/RACES members did not hesitate to volunteer for the assignment.

"Steve King, KE6WEZ, immediately packed his vehicle with supplies and extra radio equipment, and headed out," Gilmore said. Although his trip was hampered by closed or flood-damaged roadways, the California Highway Patrol immediately let King through. "He drove the perilous journey along Highway 126 to Piru, navigating through flowing water and mudslides that already littered the road," Gilmore said.

Although two more operators--Dan Halpert, WA6JQB, and Karl Baird, KG6KRN, had also prepared to go, King's vehicle was the last allowed in before nightfall, when the highway became too dangerous to travel.

Once there King spent a busy--and uncomfortable--night supporting communication for the more than 500 flood refugees, who had little in the way of

supplies. King was able to help coordinate the delivery of needed provisions. At one point, he also handled traffic for the emergency evacuation of a Piru resident who required medical treatment. The area lost electrical power around 3 AM, and Gilmore says King was instrumental in locating a small generator and getting it on line as dawn approached.

Fortunately, the anticipated heavy rain did not materialize, and the release of water over the dam was held back enough to avoid affecting residential housing. Piru residents were allowed to return home the next morning, and King was able to get back home for a well-deserved rest, Gilmore said.

As the severe weather wound down, so did the Ventura County ARES/RACES activation. Gilmore said the team remains on standby if additional communication problems arise.

Heavy rainfall in California in recent days has resulted in mudslides that left at least two dozen people dead. California Gov Arnold Schwarzenegger, who toured La Conchita January 12, has declared a state of emergency in Ventura County. The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross are cooperating in meeting the needs of those displaced by the flooding and mudslides.

FCC ACTS ON LONG-RANGE CORDLESS TELEPHONE COMPLAINT

The FCC in November responded to a complaint from the Holmesburg (Pennsylvania) Amateur Radio Club about interference on 2 meters from a high-powered so-called long-range cordless telephone. FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth forwarded information from the club to the FCC Philadelphia District Office on November 22.

The club claimed that the cordless telephone system was causing interference

on its repeater's 146.080 MHz input frequency. On November 27, an agent from the Philadelphia District Office investigated the complaint and determined that a resident of Glassboro, New Jersey, was operating a "Senao High Quality Cordless Telephone," model SN-358. The base unit appeared to operate on 146.080 MHz, while the handset appeared to operate on 228.960 MHz (specifications listed on Senao's Web site indicate the model SN-358 handset operates on 268 MHz and the base on 394 MHz).

During an on-site inspection, the telephone's owner voluntarily surrendered the unit to the FCC agent. The telephone owner asserted that he'd purchased the system, which reportedly did not display an FCC certification notice, from an eBay advertiser.

The FCC's Philadelphia District Office is continuing to investigate. (from ARRL newsletter)

AMATEUR RADIO PRAISED AS LIFELINE IN SOUTH ASIA

As the tsunami relief and recovery effort continues in South Asia, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has joined those paying tribute to Amateur Radio's ongoing emergency communication role. Director and Executive Vice Chairman S. Suri, VU2MY, of India's National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), noted January 5 that the PM "was all praise for hams in India and the entire world who helped us in this hour of need." Suri said the administrator of hard-hit Car Nicobar Island has asked NIAR to keep on duty Rama Mohan, VU2MYH, and five other radio amateurs who have been providing communication with the island since shortly after the December 26 disaster.

Although the US does not have third-party traffic agreements with any of the countries affected by the disaster, international emergency and disaster relief

communications are permitted unless otherwise provided. While FCC Part 97 has not yet been updated to reflect revisions to third-party traffic rules at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, FCC staff has told ARRL that if the government agencies responsible for the Amateur Service in affected countries do not object to their amateur stations receiving messages from US amateur stations on behalf of third parties, the US has no objection to its amateur stations transmitting international communications in support of the disaster.

Additional information on Amateur Radio and the tsunami disaster is on the ARRL Web site. (from ARRL newsletter)

HONORING FRANK JONES, W6AJF, 1904 - 1995

Frank is the Honorary President in Perpetuity of the Valley Of The Moon Amateur Radio Club.

Frank was truly a pioneer in the development of radio, he was a "ham" before there were licenses, he started his career in the "spark gap" area.

QST published his first article in 1924, from then on there was no stopping him.

He continued to write articles and publish books the rest of his life. He wrote under the names of "Francis Churchill" and "Allen Dondson".

He designed the first dynamic loud speaker used in a commercial radio.

He published a complete Radio Hand Book in 1935.

He taught radio, worked on the cyclotron., helped develop early TV, and developed sonar for the Navy.

VOMARC Net Control Assignments 2005

Month	Call	Name
JANUARY	K6UUW	JIM
FEBRUARY	WB6TMH	MIKE
MARCH	K900U	JAN
APRIL	KD6FIL	DAVE
MAY	KD6KVY	STEVE
JUNE		
JULY	K6ITE	GEORGE
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	KF6FJM	DICK
OCTOBER	KG6QJQ	TOM
NOVEMBER	KG6LJN	DAN
DECEMBER		

Sonoma Valley ACS Net Control Assignments 2005

Month	Call	Name
JANUARY	K6UUW	JIM
FEBRUARY	WB6TMH	MIKE
MARCH	K900U	JAN
APRIL	KG6QJQ	TOM
MAY	KD6KVY	STEVE
JUNE	N6KM	KEN
JULY	K6ITE	GEORGE
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	KG6QNU	SAM
OCTOBER	KF6FZM	DICK
NOVEMBER	KG6LJN	DAN
DECEMBER		

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 9 EDITION 1

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President
George Maurer, K6ITE – Vice-Pres
Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary
Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Treasurer
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair
Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer
Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:
wd6bor@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

**Valley of the Moon ARC
1496 Nut Tree Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476**

**THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19,
AT 7:30 P.M. AT MCDOUGAL HALL, SDC
CU THERE!**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2005 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org. QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**